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**Public Health Department**

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**Paso Robles Area**  
**Health Status Report**

**PASO ROBLES HEALTH COLLABORATIVE**  
**Economic Opportunity Commission of**  
**San Luis Obispo County, Inc.**

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**Final Report**  
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## **DATA SOURCES AND LIMITATIONS**

When reviewing this report, please keep in mind the following:

1. Data included in this report comes from various sources, including, but not limited to, the San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department (SLO PHD), California Department of Health Services, the Office of Vital Statistics-SLO PHD, the Air Pollution Control District, the US Census, Action for Healthy Communities-2001 Comprehensive Report, the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District, and the San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments (SLOCOG). The San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department does not assume any responsibility for the accuracy of data supplied by outside agencies.
2. Morbidity and Mortality data as supplied by the Vitals Records department of the SLO PHD reflects only reporting practices of County Providers, and may not always be an exact picture of true occurrence or trends.
3. Survey data is inherently biased, and should be seen as only representative of those persons willing to participate in the survey process, not necessarily represent the views of the majority of the populace.
4. San Luis Obispo County has limited representation in some ethnic groups, and data may not be collected for all ethnic groups. This condensation of data is done to protect confidentiality only, and is not meant to show any greater or lesser significance placed on any demographic or geographic group.
5. Paso Robles area data is compared to County data as a whole, which includes Paso Robles data. Thus, the data are not independent of each other, so may show more relationship than might otherwise be observed from independent samples.
6. The Healthy People 2010 objectives used as a comparison in this report are criteria established by the US Department of Health and Human Services to identify opportunities to improve the health of the population. These criteria are updated once every ten (10) years. Where HP2010 objectives were not available, Healthy People 2000 Objectives were used.
7. The Paso Robles region was considered to be the 93446, 93451 and 93461 region. Because post office boxes do not necessarily represent persons actually living in the area, data that listed only a PO Box zip code in the region was excluded. Zip Code level data from SLO PHD sources was chosen as the only readily available source of sub-county level data.
8. Because the Paso Robles region has such a small population (39,126 in the 2000 US Census), small increases in actual number of cases can cause large fluctuations in rates.

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **Morbidity**

Rates of thirteen communicable diseases were determined for the Paso Robles area (zip codes 93446, 93451, and 93461). In 2001, Healthy People 2010 objectives were met for all of these diseases except Campylobacter and Tuberculosis. All rates for Paso Robles area were higher than the rest of the county except for Salmonellosis, Chlamydia and Hepatitis C from 1999-2001. (1999 and 2000 rates were compared to Health People 2000.)

## **Mortality**

Death rates for the CDC Healthy People 2010 Consensus Indicators were calculated for the Paso Robles area and are compared with county, state, and Healthy People 2010 objective rates. Rates from 1999 to 2001 were higher in the Paso Robles area than in the county for all causes except drug related, unintentional injury, stroke, and breast cancer.

## **Maternal/Child Health**

From 1999-2001, a higher percentage of mothers in the Paso Robles area had low birthweight babies and received late prenatal care than in the rest of the county. Healthy People 2010 Objectives were not met for low birthweight babies and late prenatal care. The infant mortality rate in the Paso Robles area from 1999-2001 was lower than in the rest of the county and throughout California. At the last census, a higher percentage of persons under 18 years of age were living below poverty line in Paso Robles City and San Miguel than in the county, but a lower percentage were living below poverty than in the state. Sub-county data for child immunization levels was not available due to movement of records to a new statewide database.

## **Environmental Health**

Ozone levels in the North County were generally higher than in the rest of the county from 1992-2001, with levels in 1998 being exceedingly high. From 1999 until 2001 levels appear to be decreasing. The state standard was met or exceeded four months of the year in Paso Robles. Levels of PM (inhalable particulate matter 10 microns or less) in Paso Robles from 1999-2001 were comparable to the rest of the county. Water in the Paso Robles area appears to meet all primary standards established by the California Department of Health Services.

## **Substance Use**

In 2001, the percentage of students who used alcohol, cigarettes, or marijuana at least once in their life appeared to increase from grade 7 to grade 11. The percentage of students who used inhalants increased from grade 7 to grade 9, but then decreased slightly between grades 9 and 11. For each of the three grade levels, the percentage of students reporting alcohol use was higher than the percentage reporting use of cigarettes, inhalants, or marijuana.

The percentages of students who reported that they have been very drunk or sick after drinking, been high from using drugs, been involved in binge drinking in the past month, and/ or have smoked cigarettes daily increased from grades 7 to grade 11.

A greater percentage of students in grade 11 reported drinking and driving than students in grade 9.

### **Domestic Violence**

In 2000, the rate of calls to the Paso Robles Police Department reporting domestic violence in the city of Paso Robles was 5.5 calls per 1,000 people. This number has declined since 1996 when the call rate was 8.8.

### **Juvenile Justice**

The number of youth in Paso Robles that were placed on formal probation increased by 183% from 1994/1995 to 1998/1999. Paso Robles contained 13.8% of the youth in SLO County that were referred as 602's (violation of any law) in the 1998-1999 fiscal year. This percentage was among the lowest in the county.

Zip codes 93446, 93451 & 93461  
Study area of Health Status Report



## **MORBIDITY RATES**

1999- 2001 Averages  
Based on 2000 Census

The following data are for those people living in the areas whose zip codes are 93446, 93451, and 93461 (greater Paso Robles area). The population of this region for the 2000 Census was 39,126. Rates are number of diagnosed cases per 100,000 people, as based on the most recent census. 1999-2001 averages are compared to the 2000 and 2010 Healthy People national objectives.

<u><b>DISEASE</b></u>	<u><b>1999</b></u>	<u><b>2000</b></u>	<u><b>2001</b></u>	<u><b>HP 2000 OBJECTIVE</b></u>	<u><b>HP2010 OBJECTIVE</b></u>
<b>AIDS</b>	*15.3	*12.8	*7.7	39.2	12
<b>Campylobacter</b>	23.0	12.8	25.6	25	11.5
<b>Chlamydia</b>	76.7	127.8	143.1	170	N/E*
<b>Coccidiomycosis</b>	23.0	48.6	117.6	N/E*	N/E*
<b>E-Coli</b>	0.0	5.1	0.0	4	1
<b>Giardia</b>	12.8	10.2	12.8	N/E*	N/E*
<b>Gonorrhea</b>	10.2	10.2	15.3	100	19
<b>Hepatitis A</b>	2.6	10.2	2.6	23	13.2
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	2.6	0.0	0.0	40	11.1
<b>Meningitis – Total</b>	10.2	17.9	15.3	N/E*	N/E*
<b>Salmonellas</b>	0.0	5.1	5.1	16	6.9
<b>Syphilis</b>	0.0	5.1	0.0	10	0.20
<b>Tuberculosis</b>	2.6	5.1	7.7	3.5	1.0

\* **N/E: None Established**

Morbidity rates for chlamydia and coccidiomycosis have dramatically increased from 1999 to 2001. Local trends for Chlamydia are reflective of trends State and Nationwide.

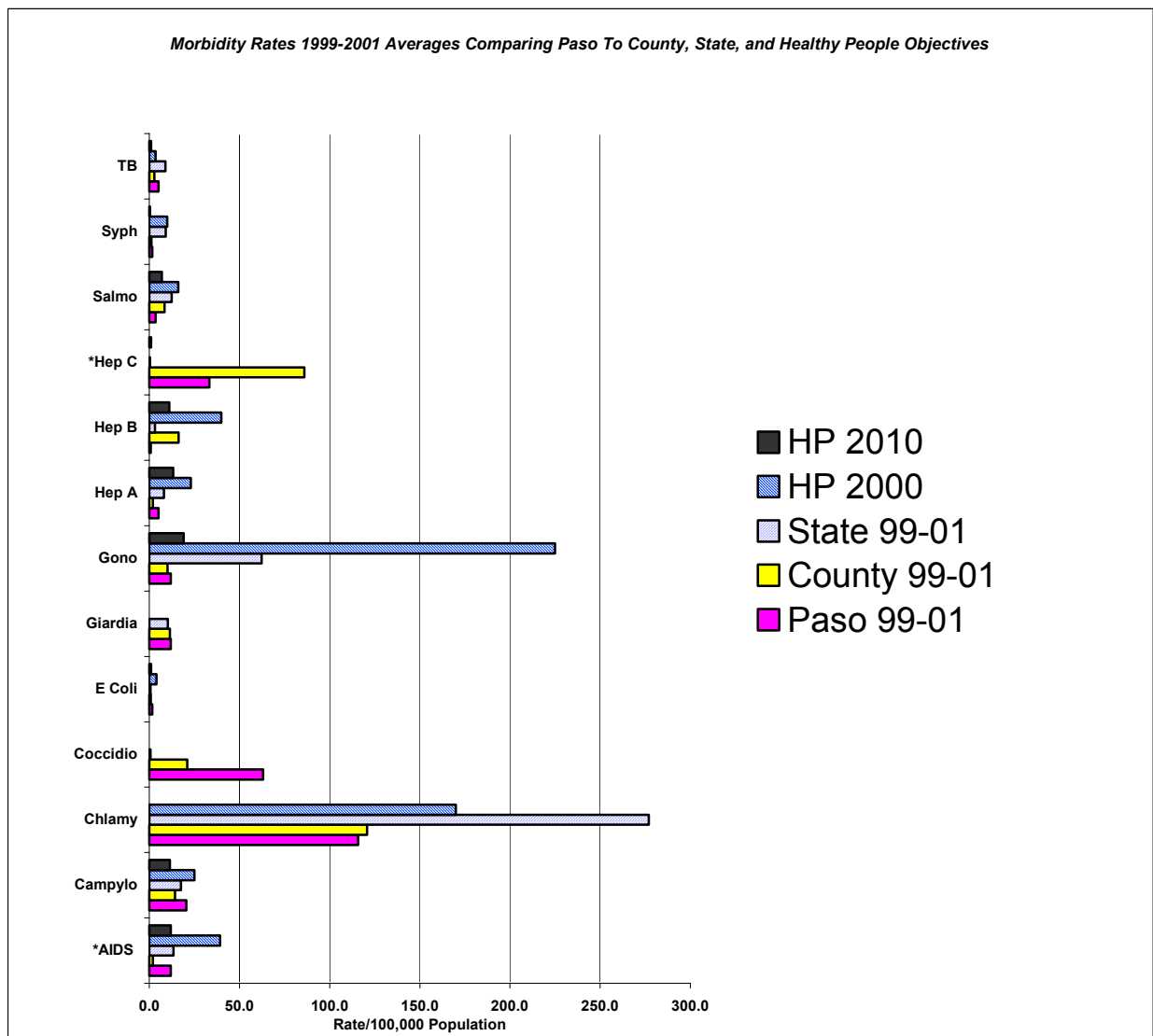
*\*NOTE: due to the issue of confidentiality, and low overall incidence, these statistics are reported for the entire county rather than from this particular population subset. For more information regarding HIV/AIDS incidence in SLO County, see the Epidemiologic Profile of AIDS/HIV in San Luis Obispo County, 2003. This report is available from SLO PHD, or on the SLO PHD website, [www.slopublichealth.org](http://www.slopublichealth.org)*

### **Sources:**

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Healthy People 2000  
Healthy People 2010  
San Luis Obispo County Health Department





*\*NOTE: HEP C and AIDS rates document community-acquired cases only, state correctional cases reported within the County are not included.*

The census 2000 population of 39,126 was used in calculating rates for the Paso Robles area. The census 2000 populations for San Luis Obispo County and California were 246,681 and 33,871,648 respectively.

Tuberculosis rates in Paso Robles were slightly greater than the county's rates, yet both county and Paso Robles rates were less than the state. Hepatitis C rates are difficult to compare to State rates, as the State now differentiates between new and chronic infections, while SLO PHD does not. Therefore, rates for all of SLO County are expected to be higher than State rates. Hepatitis B rates in the county exceeded those of the state level. In turn, Hepatitis A rates in Paso surpassed the county rates. Chlamydia rates in the Paso Robles area and SLO County have significantly decreased in comparison to state levels. Finally, the rate of AIDS cases in the Paso area exceeds that of the county, yet both county and Paso Robles area rates remain below the state level.

#### **Sources:**

California Department of Finance  
 California Department of Health Services – Division of Communicable Disease Control  
 San Luis Obispo Council of Governments  
 San Luis Obispo County Health Department

# **MORTALITY RATES**

1999-2001 Averages  
Based on 2000 Census

The following data are for those people living in the areas whose zip codes are 93446, 93451, and 93461. The population of this region at the last census was 39,126. Rates are per 100,000 population.

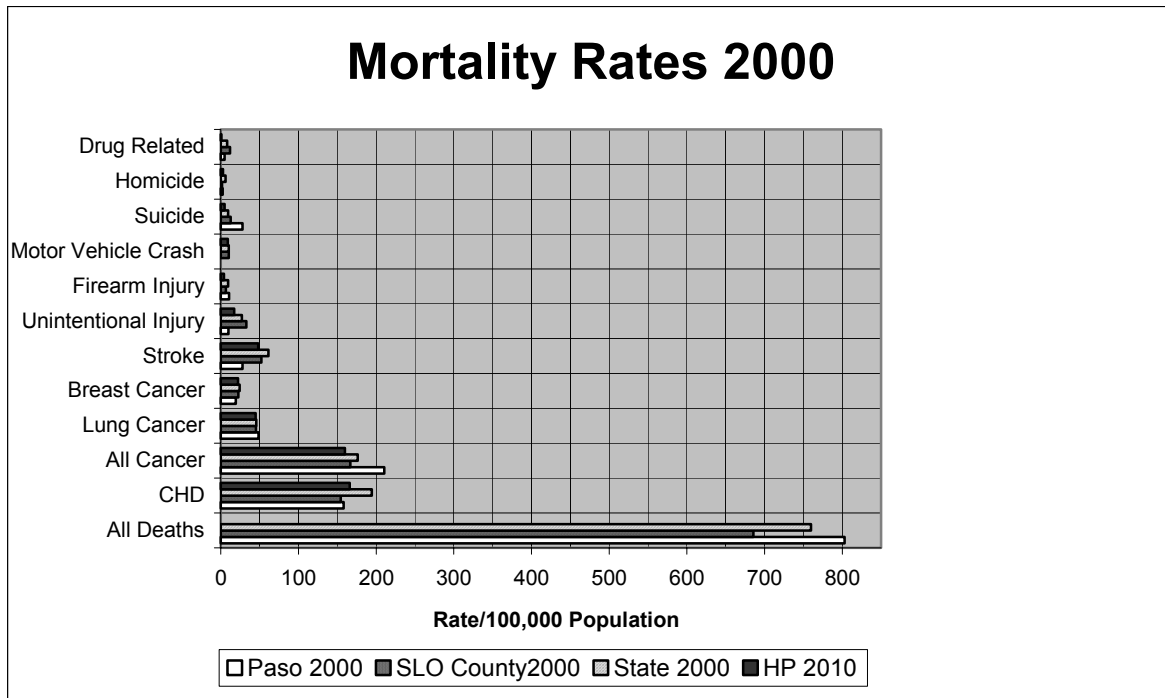
**95% Confidence Limits for  
Age Adjusted Death Rate**

## **1999-2001**

<b><u>CAUSE</u></b>	<b><u>DEATHS (AVERAGE)</u></b>	<b><u>CRUDE DEATH RATE</u></b>	<b><u>AGE ADJUSTED DEATH RATE</u></b>	<b><u>LOWER</u></b>	<b><u>UPPER</u></b>
<b><i>All Deaths</i></b>	<b>322.33</b>	<b>823.83</b>	<b>803.15</b>	<b>722.05</b>	<b>884.25</b>
<b>Coronary Heart Disease</b>	63.00	159.9	157.99	157.76	158.22
<b>All Cancer</b>	84.00	214.69	210.6	210.36	210.83
<b>Lung Cancer</b>	20.00	50.64	48.65	48.59	48.71
<b>Breast Cancer</b>	8.00	20.26	19.37	19.35	19.40
<b>Stroke</b>	22.00	55.78	27.94	27.89	27.98
<b>Injuries:</b>					
<b>a) Unintentional</b>	4.00	10.13	9.77	9.75	9.78
<b>b) Firearm</b>	4.00	10.13	10.56	10.54	10.57
<b>Motor Vehicle Crash</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Suicide</b>	5.00	12.70	27.94	27.89	27.98
<b>Homicide</b>	1.00	2.56	2.52	2.51	2.53
<b>Drug Related</b>	2.00	5.06	5.04	5.02	5.05

### **Sources:**

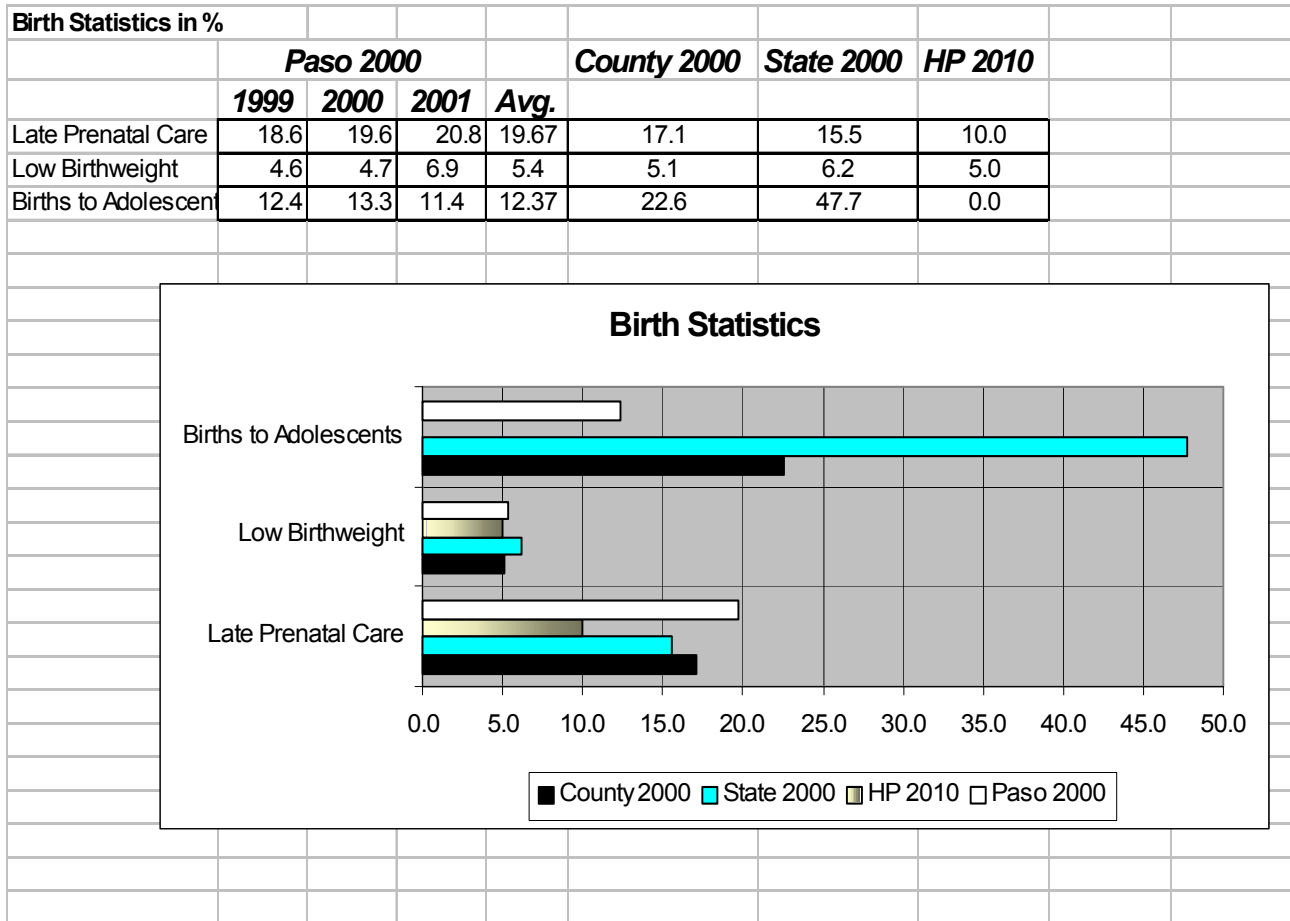
San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department  
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments  
U.S. Census 2000



Death rates for all causes listed above except Stroke, Unintentional injury and Drug related causes were slightly higher in Paso Robles than the rest of the county. It was assumed that Paso Robles grew at the same rate as the rest of the county, but it is likely that it grew more rapidly. Correcting for this difference in growth rate could explain the mortality gap.

Death rates for Breast Cancer, Firearm Injury, Motor Vehicle Crash, Suicide, Homicide, and Drug Related Deaths are unreliable since the relative standard error is greater than 30 percent due to the small number of cases.

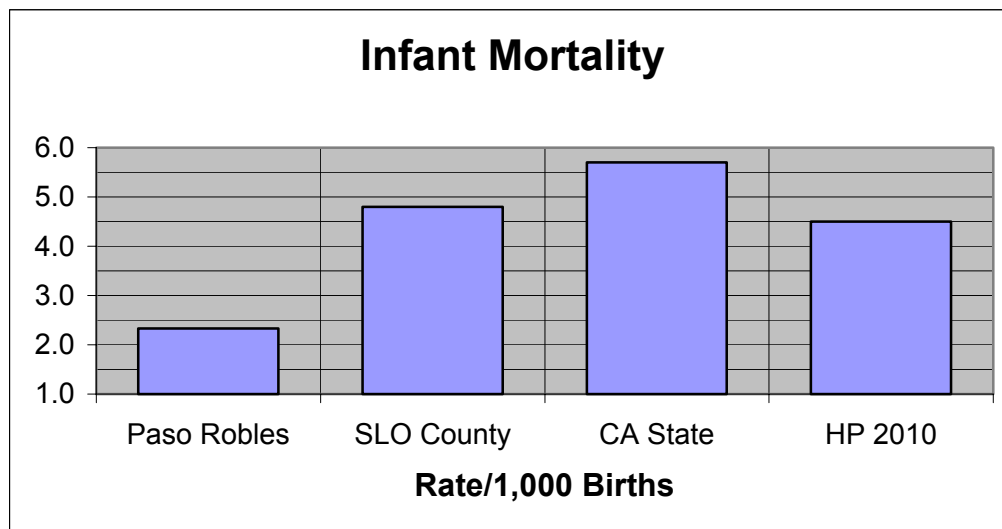
# **MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH**



**Adolescent Births:** Births to mothers age 15-19  
**Low Birthweight:** Weighing less than 2500 g at birth  
**Late Prenatal Care:** Prenatal care not begun during the first trimester

Low birthweight has been associated with negative birth outcomes and is considered to be an indicator of healthcare access problems and/or need for prenatal care services. Births to adolescents are an indicator for other high-risk pregnancy factors.

In the Paso Robles area, a lower percentage of mothers are adolescents than in the rest of the county. Healthy People 2010 objectives were not met for late prenatal care. In order to meet the Healthy People 2010 Objective for Late prenatal Care, a gap must be closed. No Healthy People 2010 Objective was established for births to adolescents.



The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths among infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births. It is a widely accepted and easily understood indicator which helps reflect the overall health status of a community.

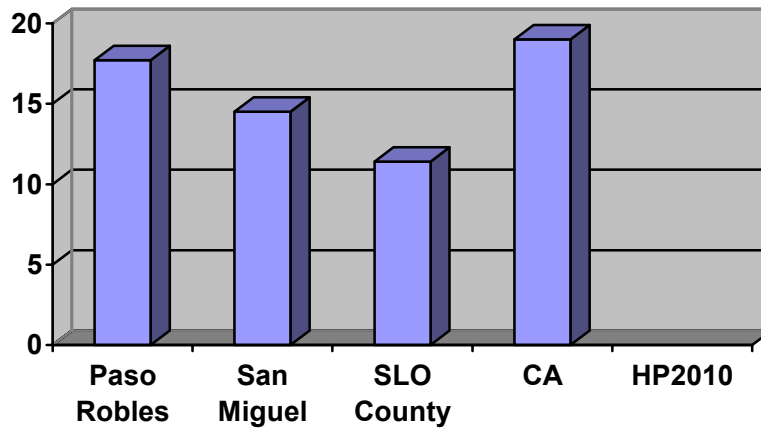
The average infant mortality rate for the zip codes 93446, 93451, and 93461 in 1999-2001 was 2.3 deaths per 1,000 births, a rate lower than that of the county, and less than half that of the State. The Paso Robles area is below the Healthy People 2010 Objective of 4.5. Both the county and State failed to reach the Healthy People 2010 Objective.

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**Sources:**

San Luis Obispo County Public Health Office; Vital Statistics

## **2000 PERSONS UNDER 18 BELOW POVERTY**



*At the last census, 17.7% of persons under 18 in Paso Robles City and 14.5% of persons under 18 in San Miguel were living below federal poverty level. This is an average of 4.7% higher than the rest of San Luis Obispo County and an average of 2.9% lower than the state of California. No Healthy People 2010 Objective has been established.*

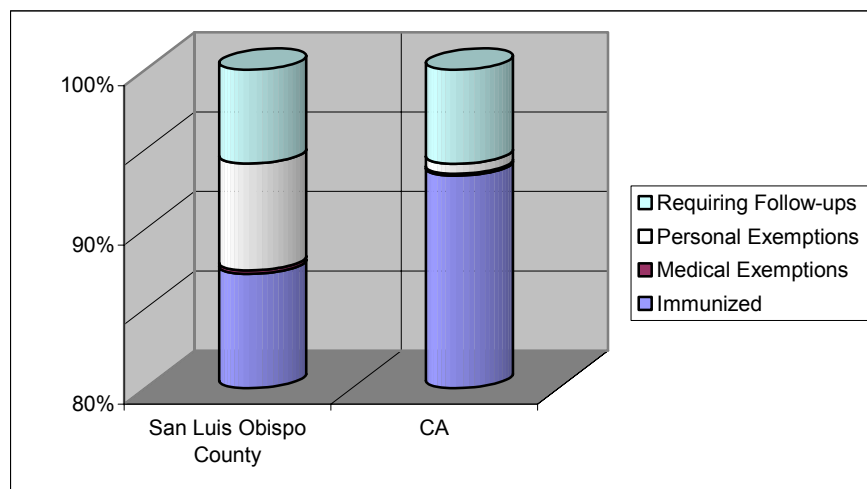
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**Sources:**

California Department of Health Services  
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments

## **2000 IMMUNIZATION LEVELS IN CHILD CARE AND SCHOOLS**

The Fall 2000 Child Care Assessment results show immunization levels of two to five year olds enrolled in child care programs. These programs include Public and Private childcare centers, and *Head Start* centers.



In 2001, records of children receiving immunizations through county programs were moved to a new statewide database. Records of persons who were not notified or did not respond to notification that the records were being moved to the new database were excluded. Therefore sub-county data is not available for the Paso Robles region, but more complete data will be available in the future.

A disturbing trend is the high level of personal exemptions requested in San Luis Obispo County. Immunizations help protect the health of both the children immunized, and the community at large. There have been several recent outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases in communities with high levels of non-compliance that illustrate the perils of such decisions.

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### **Sources:**

California Department of Health Services, **Immunization Levels in Child Care and Schools, 2000.**  
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/izgroup/pdf/ca00.pdf>

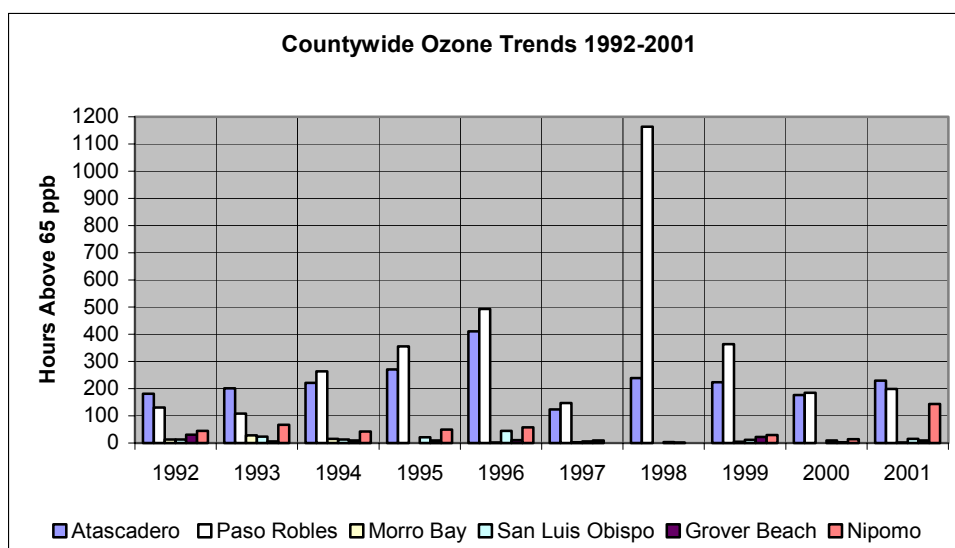
# **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

## **Air Quality**

### **Ozone**

Ozone near the surface of the earth is a chemical oxidant and major component of photochemical smog. Unhealthful levels of ozone are created when airborne mixtures of hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen are driven by sunlight to react. Emissions of ozone precursor pollutants come from many human activities but primarily from industry and the wide use of motor vehicles.

Ozone is a strong oxidant gas, which attacks plant and animal tissues. It causes impaired breathing and reduced lung capacity, especially among children, athletes, and persons with respiratory disorders. It also causes significant crop and forest damage. Ozone is a pollutant of particular concern in California where geography, climate, and high population densities contribute to frequent violations of health-based air quality standards.



Each data bar represents the total number of hours in a given year in which the ozone concentration exceeded 65 parts per billion. This concentration level is a useful indicator for trend purposes even though there are no health standards for single-hour exposures to 65 parts per billion of ozone. Air quality is measured at 9 air-monitoring stations throughout the County.

Ozone levels in the North County are significantly higher than the rest of the county. An increasing trend has been seen from 1992 to 1996 in both Atascadero and Paso Robles. This may be related to local population growth, pollutant transport from other regions, and meteorological factors. After 1997 the ozone levels fluctuate and then appear to level out.

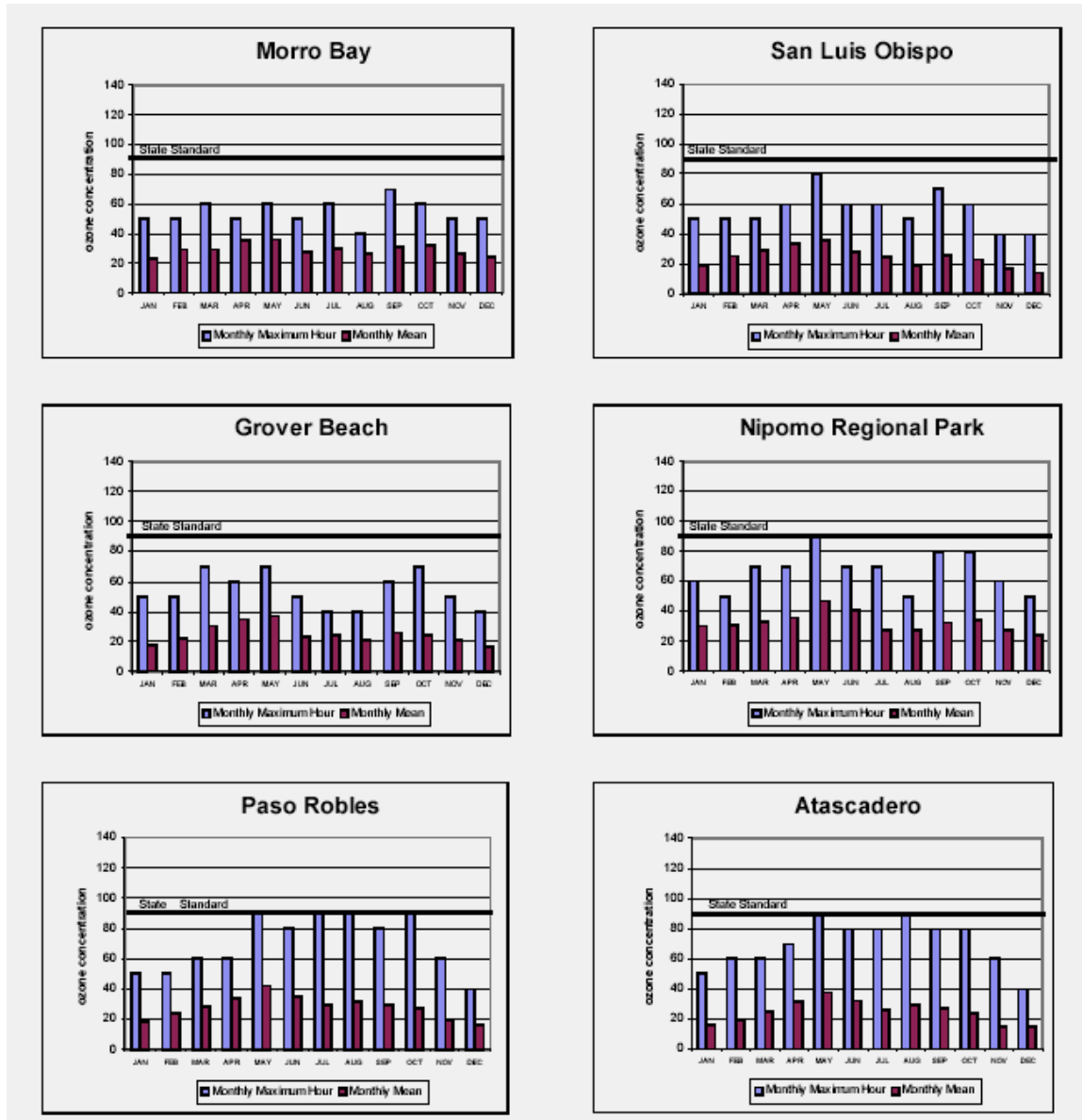
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#### **Sources:**

County of San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District



## 2001 MONTHLY MAXIMUM HOUR OZONE CONCENTRATIONS



The monthly maximum hour bar shows the highest hourly average concentration during the month in parts per billion (ppb). The monthly mean bar is a monthly average concentration and depicts an overall average ozone intensity (in ppb) for the month.

The state standard was met four months of the year in Paso Robles.

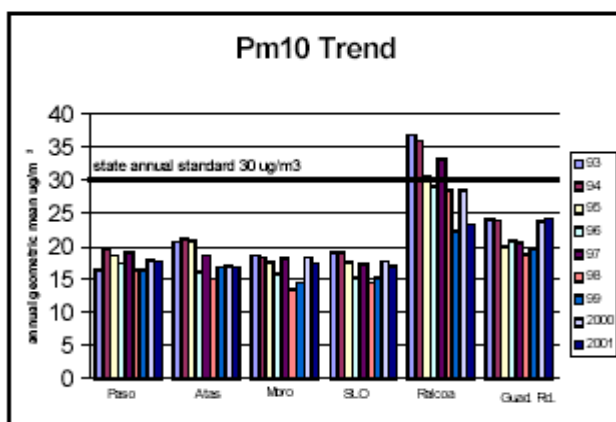
### Sources:

County of San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District

## **PM<sub>10</sub>**

PM<sub>10</sub> (inhalable particulate matter 10 microns or less) consists of many different types of particles, which vary in their chemical activity and toxicity. Since it cannot be removed from the lungs once deeply inhaled, it is a health risk. Sources of PM<sub>10</sub> pollution include mineral extraction and production; demolition and construction; agricultural operations; fire; paved and unpaved roads; and natural sources such as wind-blown dust.

Paso Robles did not exceed the state standard of 30 micrograms per cubic meter. The only exceedance of the state standard was measured for the Ralco Way station in South County in four out of the nine years measured.



Annual geometric means of PM<sub>10</sub> levels in Paso Robles are comparable to the rest of the county. A decreasing trend in PM<sub>10</sub> has been seen in the last five years throughout the county. Both the Paso Robles and Atascadero monitoring stations recorded two state PM<sub>10</sub> exceedance this year.

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### **Sources:**

County of San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District

## **WATER QUALITY**

### **Paso Robles**

#### Water Source

Ground water from 14 active wells supplied by a large aquifer known as the Paso Robles Basin and the Salinas River Underflow.

#### Water Testing

Water in Paso Robles is regulated by numerous agencies including:

- California Department of Health Services
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of Water Resources
- San Luis Obispo County
- Regional Water Quality Control Board

Each week, the system is tested for coliform bacteria as an early indicator of pathogenic contamination in the water. Water samples are sent to an independent laboratory to be tested.

#### Water Quality

The water supply for Paso Robles meets all Federal and State water quality standards without use of a water treatment plant. Water treatment is limited to a very small quantity of liquid chlorine injected into each well site.

### **San Miguel**

#### Water Source

Ground water from two active wells in San Miguel.

#### Water Testing

Water testing is performed by the San Luis Obispo County Water Quality Laboratory.

#### Water Quality

Screening tests for radioactivity detected elevated gross alpha activity in the water from the two wells in use.

An expanded monitoring program has been implemented in San Miguel, and results from this expanded testing indicate that the water quality meets Federal and State radioactivity standards.

## **Shandon**

### **Water Source**

Ground water from two active wells in Shandon.

### **Water Testing**

The San Luis Obispo County Water Quality Laboratory performs water testing.

### **Water Quality**

The water in Shandon is considered to be hard. Two beneficial chemicals, calcium and magnesium, can be associated with hard water. However, this type of water can inhibit the cleaning action of soaps.

The water in Shandon meets all Federal and State drinking water standards.

Shandon has installed a new water tank, supply line, control system, and well pumps. The old ground level tanks are no longer in use.

## **San Luis Obispo County**

In SLO County from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2001, the Department of Health Services sampled a total of 89 wells for the presence of pesticides. No pesticides or pesticide residues were found in any of the wells sampled.

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### **Sources:**

[slowaterqualitylab.org](http://slowaterqualitylab.org)

[prcity.com/governemnt/departments/publicworks/water/index.asp](http://prcity.com/governemnt/departments/publicworks/water/index.asp)

*Sampling for Pesticide Residues in California Well Water* from the California

Department of Health Services, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Report to the Legislature

# **STUDENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

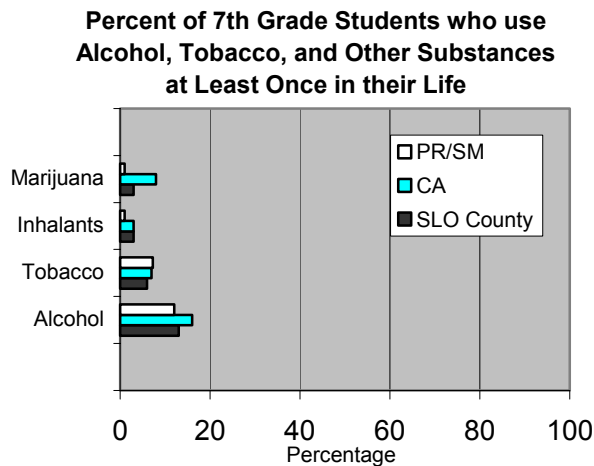
## **PASO ROBLES**

VS

## **SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY** (excluding Paso Robles)

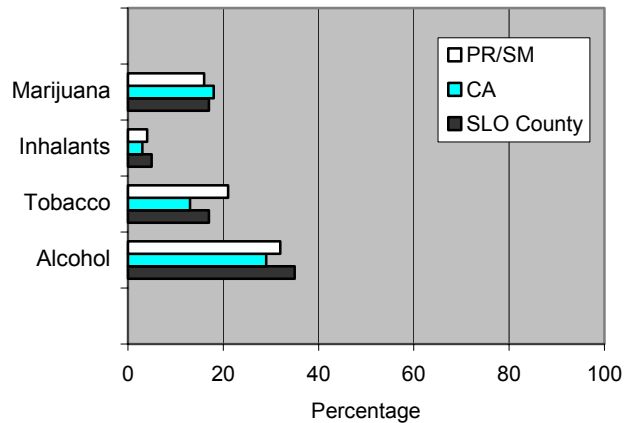
*(Compared to Levels of Youth Substance Abuse throughout the State)*

Data was compiled for 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders at the county and state level. “The 2001 Comprehensive Report, ACTION for Healthy Communities, includes data from a variety of sources including the results of a comprehensive telephone survey tracking the quality of life in San Luis Obispo County as expressed by the community.” The following data was taken from student self-reports of substance use in San Luis Obispo County and the Paso Robles Area.



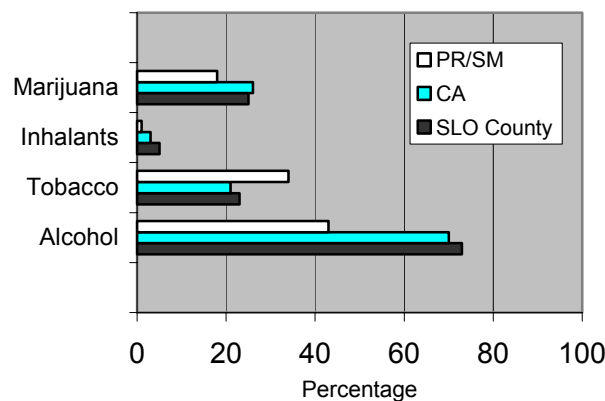
7<sup>th</sup> graders in both SLO county and the Paso Robles area had substance use rates below those of 7<sup>th</sup> graders throughout the state in all categories that were surveyed with the exception of tobacco use in Paso Robles. 7<sup>th</sup> graders in Paso Robles had a rate of tobacco use approximately equal to the state level. The rate of tobacco use by 7<sup>th</sup> graders in SLO County was only slightly lower than the rate for 7<sup>th</sup> graders throughout the state. It should be noted that data for the tobacco use rates was collected from 7<sup>th</sup> graders throughout the Paso Robles Area; including the cities of Shandon, San Miguel, Pleasant Valley, and Paso Robles. Data for alcohol, inhalant, and marijuana use was only collected from 7<sup>th</sup> graders within the city of Paso Robles.

**Percent of 9th Grade Students who  
use Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other  
Substances at Least Once in their Life**



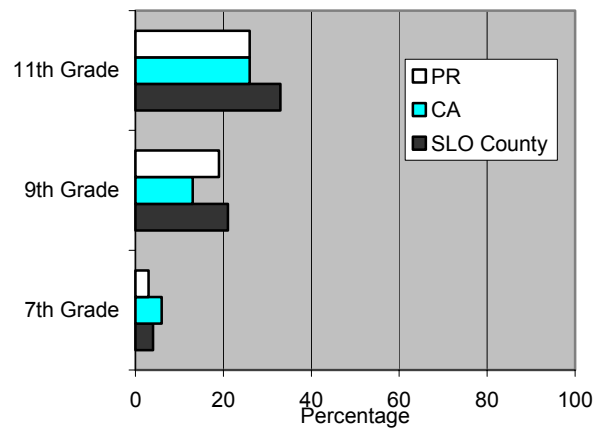
The rate of substance use by students increased significantly between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade. In SLO county and Paso Robles, the rate of substance use by 9<sup>th</sup> graders exceeded the state level in every category except marijuana use. It should be noted that the tobacco use rate among 9<sup>th</sup> graders in Paso Robles was calculated using data from 9<sup>th</sup> grade students in both the cities of Shandon and Paso Robles.

**Percentage of 11th Grade Students who  
use Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other  
Substances at Least Once in their Life**



11<sup>th</sup> graders in Paso Robles were below the state level in all categories except Tobacco use. The rate of alcohol use by students in SLO County and by students throughout the state increased by over 35% between grades 9 and 11. The rate of alcohol use among students in Paso Robles increased as well between 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade, but only by 8%.

**Percent of All County Youth who Indicated that they Consumed 5 or More Drinks Consecutively in a Couple of Hours in the Past Month**



Binge drinking in the survey was defined as having had 5 or more alcoholic drinks within a few hours. The incidence of binge drinking by 7<sup>th</sup> graders in SLO County and in the city of Paso Robles was lower than the corresponding rate for 7<sup>th</sup> graders throughout the state. However, the rate of binge drinking by 9<sup>th</sup> graders in SLO County and the Paso Robles area exceeded the state level. Binge drinking by 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in Paso Robles was approximately equal to the rate of binge drinking by 11<sup>th</sup> graders throughout the state, and less than the rate throughout the county.

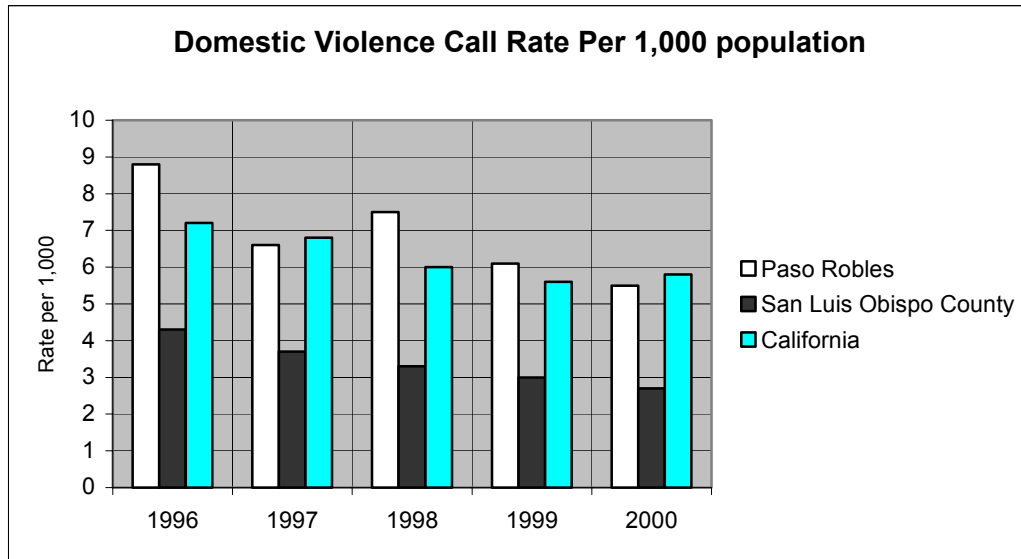
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**Sources:**

ACTION for Healthy Communities, 2001 Comprehensive Report and California Healthy Kids Survey, Fall 2001  
County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CALLS RECEIVED**

1996-2000



Paso Robles has the highest rate of domestic violence calls in comparison to all cities within San Luis Obispo County. This is true for every year except for 1997. However, the rate of domestic violence calls has decreased in Paso Robles from 8.8 in 1996 to 5.5 in 2000. Arroyo Grande and the city of San Luis Obispo both have the lowest rates of domestic violence calls.

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**Sources:**

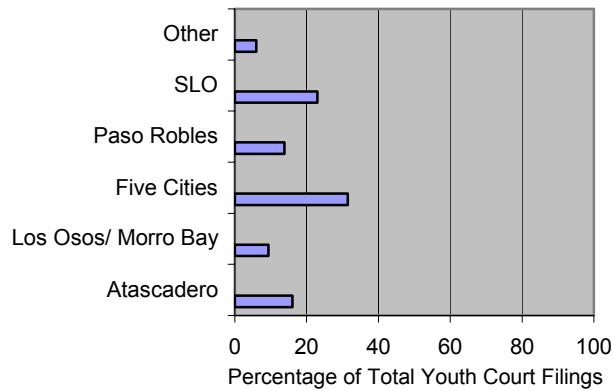
ACTION for Healthy Communities, 2001 Comprehensive Report



## **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

Section 602 of the Welfare and Institutions Code refers specifically to children/teens who have been involved in law violation of any kind; ranging from minor infractions to serious felonies. This indicator is specific for individuals under the age of 18.

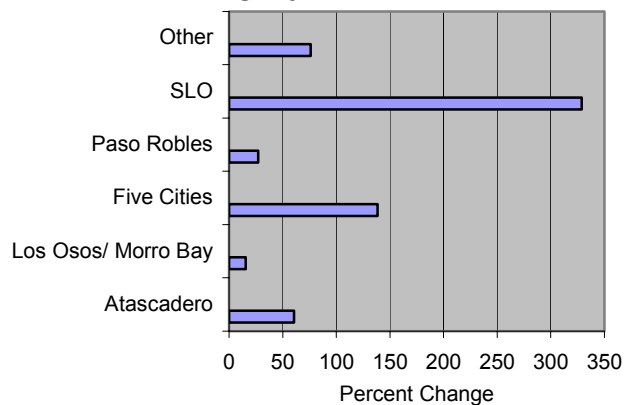
**602 Court Filings by Jurisdiction  
(1998-1999)**



Paso Robles had 13.8% of the total youth court filings, which was lower than any other areas except for Morro Bay/ Los Osos, which had 9.4%.

The Five Cities Area had the greatest number of youth court filings, comprising over 31% of the total number of youth court filings from the areas where data was collected. The percentage for the Five Cities Area was determined from the total number of youth court filings from Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Oceano, and Pismo Beach.

**% Change from 1995-1999 of 602 Court  
Filings by Jurisdiction**



From 1995-1999, the percentage of youth court filings in Paso Robles increased by 27.3%. With the exception of Los Osos/ Morro Bay, which increased by 15.5%, Paso Robles had a smaller increase in percentage of youth court filings than any other area.

The greatest change in percentage of youth court filings between 1995 and 1999 was in San Luis Obispo, which increased by 328.9%.

### **Juvenile Probation**

	<b>1994-1995</b>	<b>1998-1999</b>	<b>Change from 1995-1999</b>
Placed on <b>Informal</b> Probation	369	194	-47.4%
Placed on <b>Formal</b> Probation	206	583	183.0%
Probation <b>Violations</b>	309	246	-20.4%

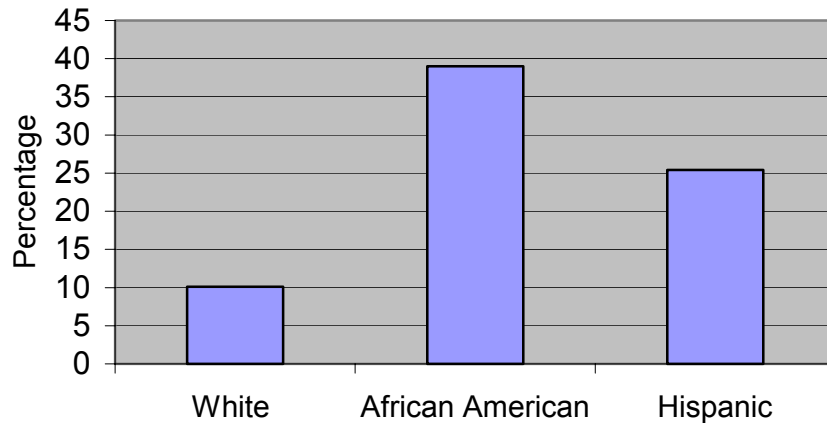
The total number of youth placed on formal probation increased from 1995- 1999. However, the number of youth placed on informal probation as well as the number of youth who violated their probation decreased from 1995-1999.

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#### **Sources:**

ACTION for Healthy Communities, 2001 Comprehensive Report

### Persons Below Poverty by Race/ Ethnicity, 2000



The above data is based on the 2000 Census, and was collected from various ethnic groups within the cities of Paso Robles City, Shandon, and San Miguel. The percentage of African Americans living in poverty in Paso Robles city has increased by a greater amount within the last 10 years than the corresponding percentage for either Whites or Hispanics, however the low overall numbers of African Americans living in these areas can cause large fluctuations in data. The higher numbers of both Whites and Hispanics lead to more stable rates. The 1990 Census showed that the percentage of African Americans living in poverty in the Paso Robles Area was slightly greater than 20%, and now it has risen to 39%. The percentage of Whites living in poverty in the Paso Robles Area has decreased slightly in the last 10 years, and the percentage of Hispanics living in poverty has remained relatively constant over that same time period.

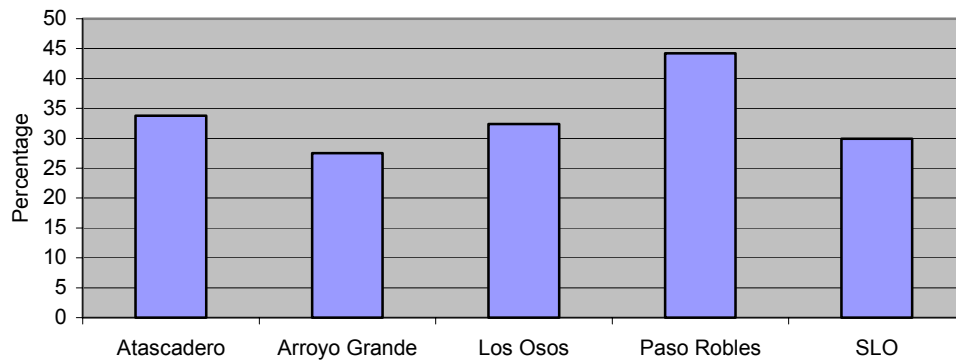
It should be noted that data for African Americans living in poverty in San Miguel and Shandon was not available due to the small African American population within those areas. Poverty data for Hispanics living in San Miguel was also not available.

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**Sources:**

Census 2000 and 1998 Paso Robles Area Health Status Report

### Percent of Infants Eligible for WIC 1999-2001 Averages



Women, Infants, and Children Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC) is a program provided to low-income families throughout San Luis Obispo County that provides them with nutritious supplemental foods, referral to health care, and health education. Eligibility for this program is determined by the expected source of payment for delivery and includes Medicare, Medi-Cal, Title V, Other Governmental Programs, No Charge, and Medically Indigent.

Between 1999-2001, an average of 538 babies were born per year in the Paso Robles area, and 238 (44.2%) were eligible to participate in WIC. A greater percentage of infants born in the Paso Robles area during this time period were eligible for WIC than infants born in any other area of SLO County.

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**Sources:**

San Luis Obispo County Health Department

# Paso Robles Area



## Demographic And Socioeconomic Review

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# **OVERVIEW**

## **Population**

The City of Paso Robles itself has a population of 24,297. The populations of Paso Robles, Shandon, and San Miguel combined make up approximately 11% of the county population. Between 2000 and 2020, the population of Paso Robles city is projected to grow more than any other city within the county, with a population increase of over 47% by 2020, to become the second largest city in the county.

## **Youth**

Youth make up a significant portion of the population in the Paso Robles area. In Paso Robles and San Miguel, at least one third of the population is under the age of 18. In 2000, Shandon had the highest high school drop out rate in the county with a rate of 3.3%. The drop out rate of approximately 1% in Paso Robles city was fairly similar to drop out rates of other cities within the county.

## **Income/Poverty**

Per capita personal income, median household income, and median family income in San Luis Obispo County are slightly lower than income levels for the state. Income in Paso Robles is lower than averages for the county, and income in San Miguel is even lower than for Paso Robles. Per Capita income is overall income in an area divided by all residents, including children and infants. A measure of median merely reflects the point at which half of all units would be higher, and half would be lower.

## **Employment**

Nearly one-fifth of the workers in Paso Robles, as well as throughout the county as a whole are employed in education, health, or social services. Other important industries in Paso Robles include manufacturing, arts/entertainment/food service, retail trade, and construction.

The unemployment rates for Paso Robles and San Miguel are slightly higher than for SLO County but are significantly lower than the unemployment rate for the California.

## **Health Care**

Paso Robles contains the greatest percentage of the county's Medi-Cal families.

## **Housing**

The price of housing in Paso Robles was the second lowest in the county, with a median home selling price of \$300,000

**Current Estimated Populations**

<b><i>San Luis Obispo County</i></b>	<b><i>246,681</i></b>
<b>San Luis Obispo City</b>	44,174
<b>Atascadero</b>	26,411
<b>Paso Robles</b>	24,297
<b>Arroyo Grande</b>	15,851
<b>Grover Beach</b>	13,067
<b>Morro Bay</b>	10,350
<b>Pismo Beach</b>	8,551
<b>San Miguel</b>	1,427
<b>Shandon</b>	1,902

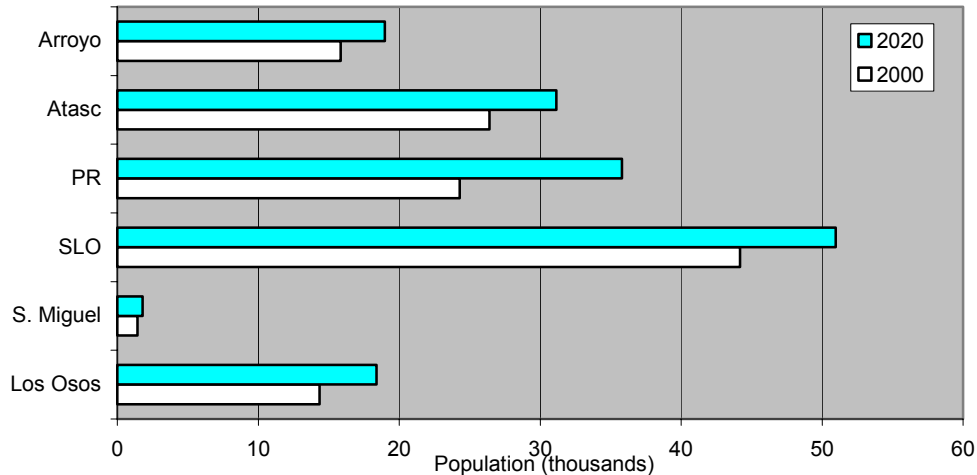
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**Sources:**

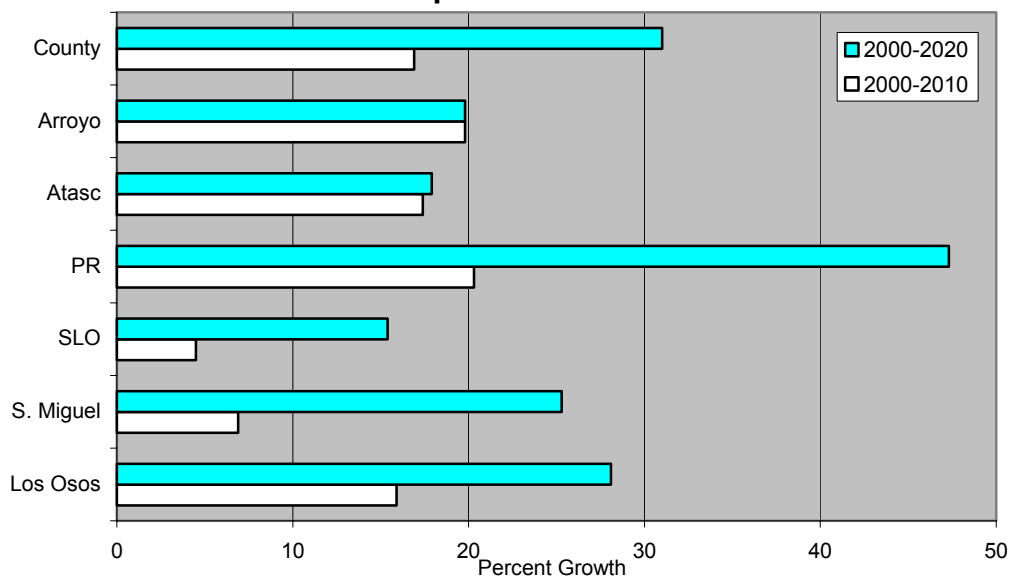
ACTION for Health Communities, 2001 Comprehensive Report



### Projected Growth of San Luis Obispo County Population Centers

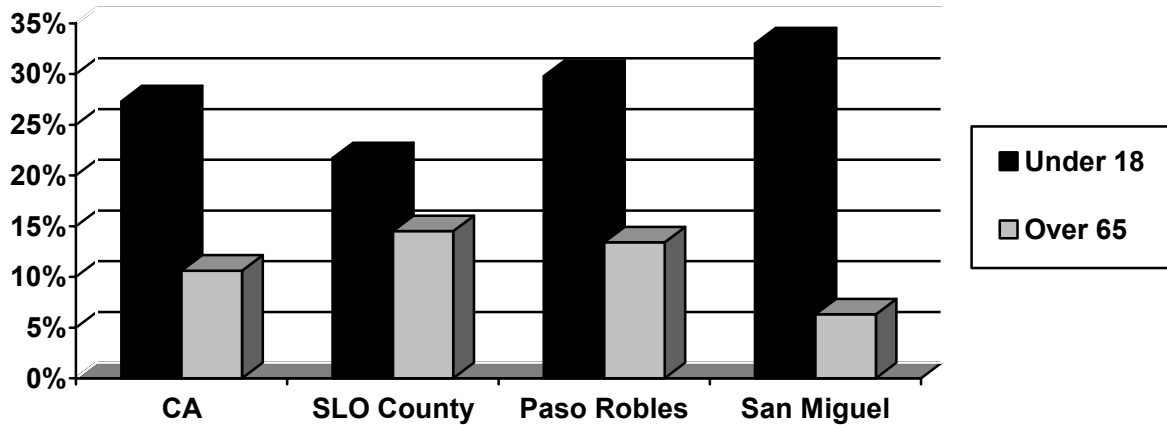


### Projected Percent Growth of San Luis Obispo County Population Centers



It is estimated that by 2020, the population in Paso Robles will have surpassed the population of Atascadero, making Paso Robles the second largest city in the county. Between 2000 and 2010, Paso Robles, Atascadero, and Arroyo Grande are expected to have relatively similar growth rates. However, after 2010, the population growth in Arroyo Grande and Atascadero is expected to level off, while the population of Paso Robles will continue to increase, to a total of 47% greater than today. San Miguel and San Luis Obispo are also expected to have significantly larger population growth rates between 2010 and 2020 than between 2000 and 2010.

## **2000 POPULATION PERCENTAGE BY AGE**



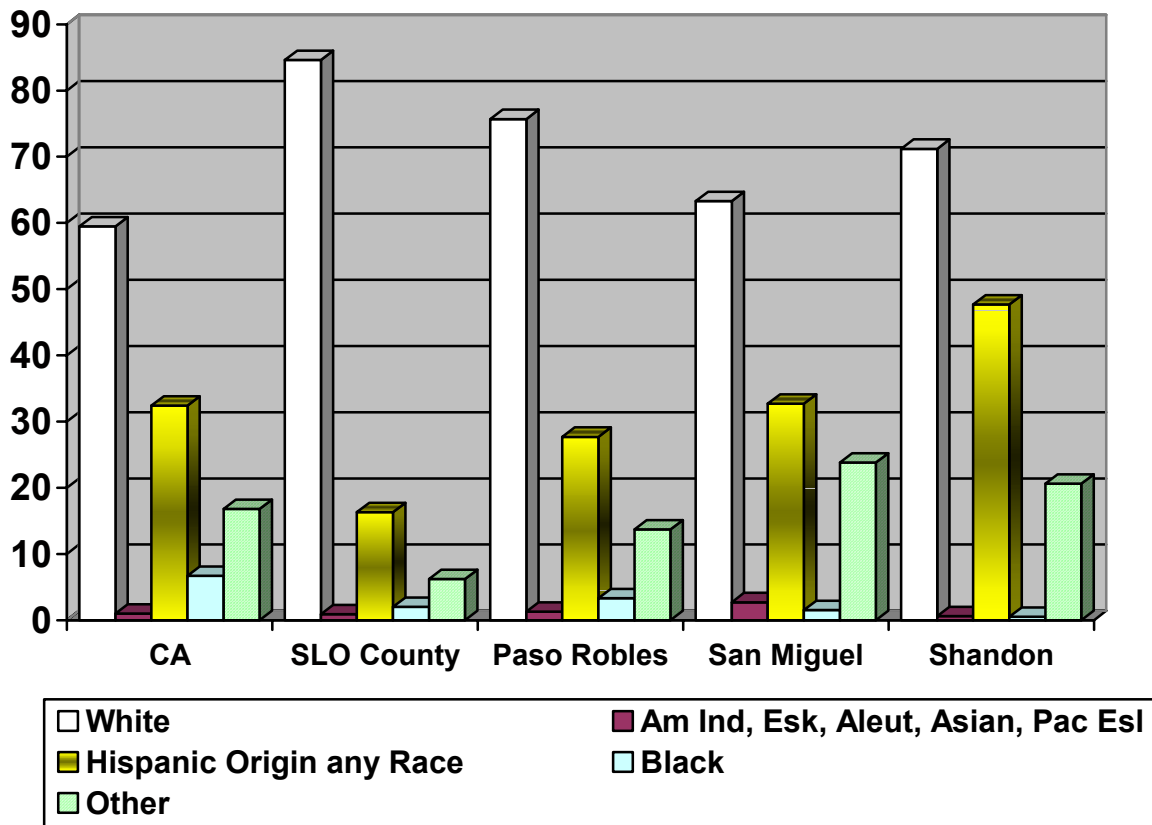
Youth make up a greater proportion of the population of Paso Robles and San Miguel than of both the county and the state. More than one-third of the population of San Miguel is under the age of 18.

A greater proportion of the population of Paso Robles and the entire county is over 65 than the rest of California.

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**Sources:**  
2000 Census of Population and Housing

## 2000 POPULATION PERCENTAGE BY RACE



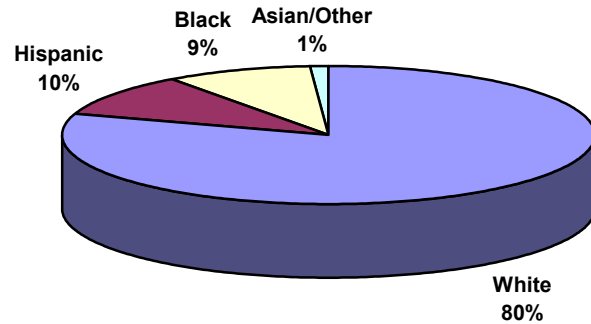
In the graph above, Hispanic is not considered a separate race. The racial categories of White, Black, American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Other make up 100% of the population. Hispanics must identify themselves as one of these categories. The Other category includes persons who do not consider themselves belonging to one of the previous categories and persons for whom race is unknown. Paso Robles, San Miguel, Shandon, and San Luis Obispo County all have a higher percentage of Whites than California. The percentage of Hispanics in Shandon is considerably greater than in other parts of the county and is reflective of the California percentage.

It should be noted that this data is the most current available for the Paso Robles community. It is possible that the composition of the population has changed since 2000.

**Sources:**  
2000 Census of Population and Housing

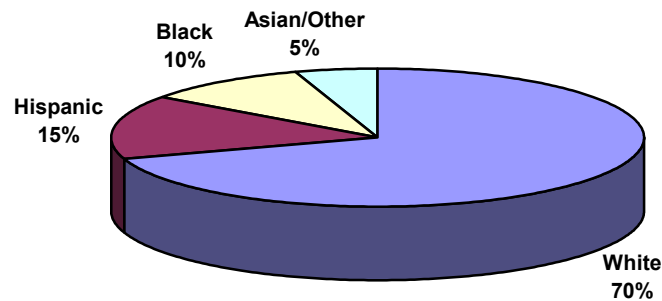
## **STUDENT ETHNICITY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Countywide Percentages



## **STUDENT ETHNICITY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Paso Robles Union and Joint Union

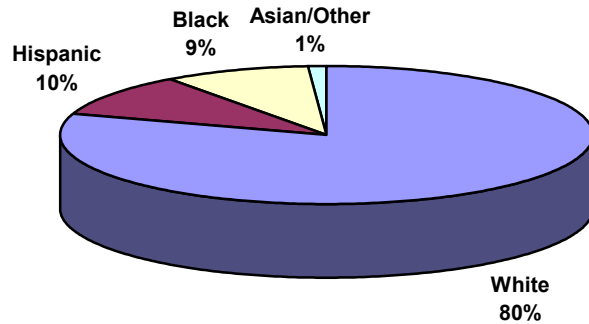


While Hispanic is not a separate race, it is a separate ethnic group. Data from the schools is broken down by ethnicity rather than race.

*Public schools in San Luis Obispo County on average have a higher percentage of Whites than public schools in Paso Robles and a lower percentage of Hispanics. The 2000 Census reported that Hispanics made up less than 30% of the total population in Paso Robles. This indicates that the Hispanic population in Paso Robles is increasing since the 1990 Census which reported a Hispanic population of less than 20%.*

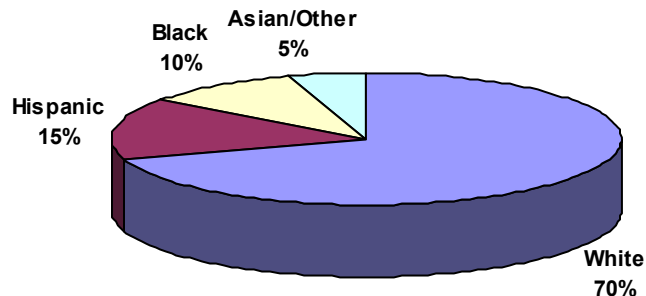
## ***STUDENT ETHNICITY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS***

San Miguel and Pleasant Valley



## ***STUDENT ETHNICITY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS***

Shandon



The proportion of Whites in San Miguel public schools is higher than in other schools in the Paso Robles area and the percentage of Hispanics is slightly lower.

The opposite is true in Shandon where Hispanics make up 15% of the public school population compared to other schools in the Paso Robles area where Hispanics make up 10%.

Very few Asians, Blacks, or other ethnicities are enrolled in public schools throughout the county.

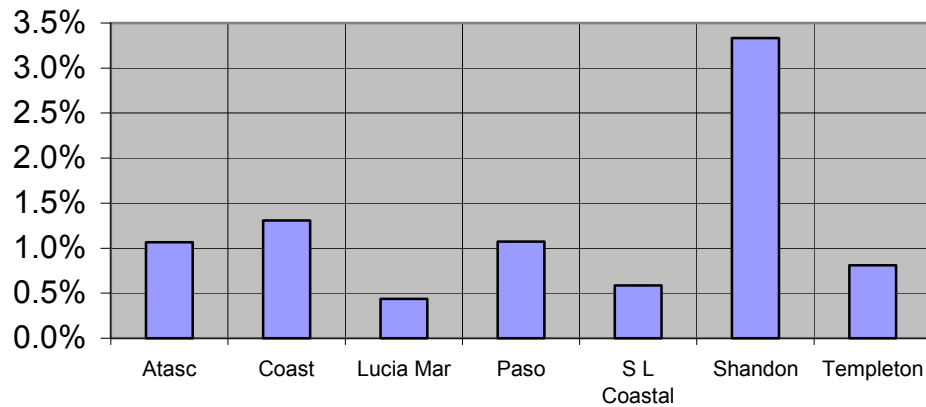
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### **Sources:**

Paso Robles Joint Unified School District

## **PERCENT DROPOUT OF TOTAL ENROLLMENT**

by School District



*\*The dropout rate was calculated by dividing the number of dropouts in a given school year by the number of students enrolled on October 11 of that school year.*

According to the County Office of Education, Lucia Mar and San Luis Coastal have the lowest reported high school dropout rates in the county. Shandon High School, with approximately 90 students, had the highest reported high school dropout rate in the year 2000-2001. However, this rate is clearly high due to the small number of students overall.

These same data indicate, however, that in October, 405 students were enrolled in 12<sup>th</sup> grade at Paso Robles High School, but only 379 students graduated.

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**Sources:**

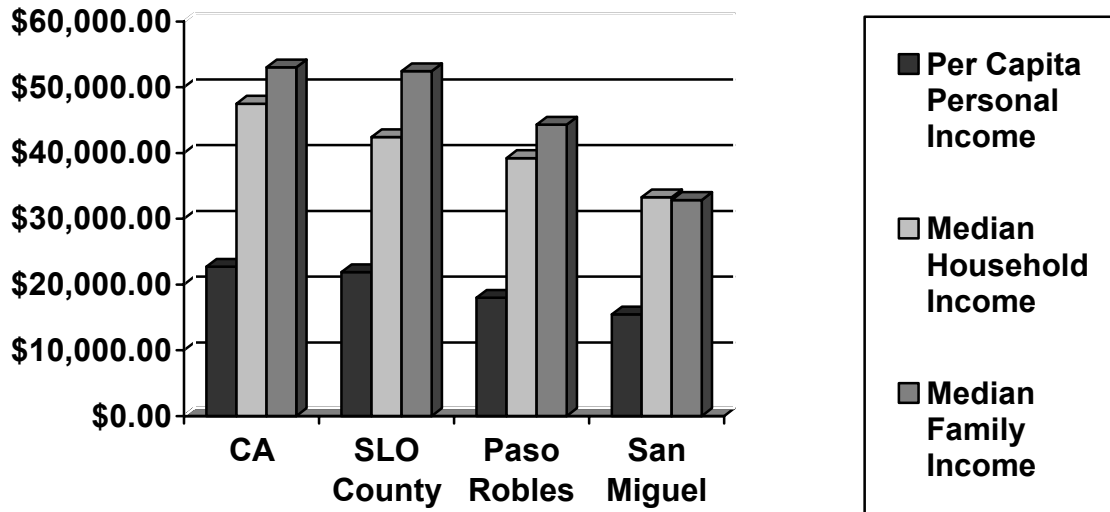
San Luis Obispo Educational Services 2001 CBEDS

## **GANGS**

Information about gangs in San Luis Obispo County was very difficult to access. Most organizations contacted were not authorized to give out any kind of statistical information. A brief summary of information obtained from various sources is presented below.

It is thought that multiple Hispanic gangs exist in the Paso Robles community. A medium sized White Supremacist group and Asian and Black gangs also exist but are smaller in size and numbers. Up to 400 gang members are thought to live in the Paso Robles community. It is quite difficult to give numbers due to the difficulty in distinguishing between “hard core” and “peripheral” members. The mobile nature of many gangs also adds to the difficulty in presenting numbers. Some gang members are stationary or “home grown” and others are transplanted from other places. Taggers paint graffiti in the Paso Robles area. Most gang activity is “turf style”, meaning the gangs consider a certain area as belonging to them. Gang activity in the county is often cyclical. Usually when there is high activity in the South County there is low activity in the North County and vice versa.

## **1999 INCOME**



SLO County per capita personal income, median household income, and median family income are slightly lower than those of California. Income in Paso Robles is even lower than county averages, and income in San Miguel is lower than in Paso Robles. Per capita income is a measure of all the income generated in a region, divided by all the residents in the region, including non-working household members. The measure of a median is the point at which half of all units are higher, and half of all units are lower.



**2002 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR**  
**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**  
(Non metropolitan areas)

<i>Annual Income</i>	
<b>Household Size</b>	<b>San Luis Obispo County</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>\$8,860</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>\$11,940</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>\$15,020</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>\$18,100</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>\$21,180</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>\$24,260</b>
<b>For each additional individual</b>	<b>\$3,080</b>

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**Sources:**

Employment Development Department, Directive: Workforce Investment Act, WIAD01-18, June 11, 2002

<b><i>WORKER BY INDUSTRY</i></b>	<b><i>PASO ROBLES</i></b>	<b><i>SLO COUNTY</i></b>
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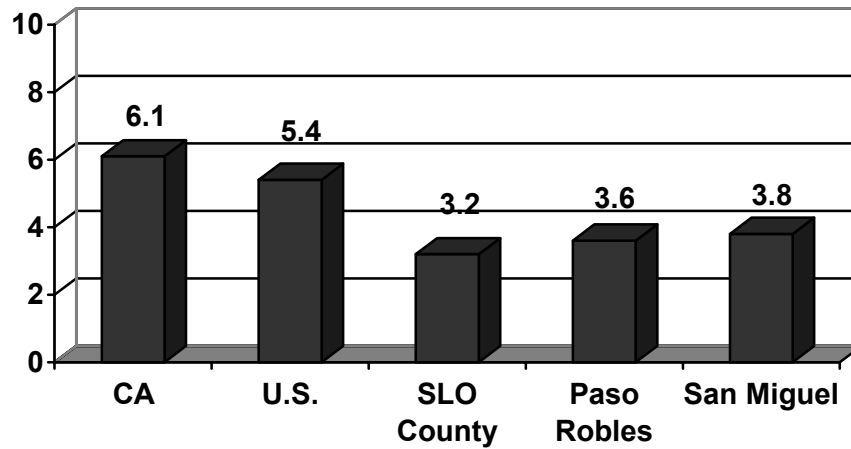
Ag, Forestry, Fisheries, Mining	5.2%	3.8%
Construction	9.2%	7.9%
Manufacturing	13.1%	7.1%
Wholesale Trade	2.0%	2.5%
Retail Trade	11.4%	12.4%
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	3.6%	4.5%
Information	1.8%	2.7%
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	4.4%	5.1%
Prof, Scientific, Management, Admin	6.5%	9.4%
Educational, Health, Social Services	19.0%	21.8%
Arts, Entertainment, Rec, Food Service	9.5%	11.4%
Other Services (except Pub Admin)	6.2%	5.4%
Public Administration	8.0%	6.2%

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**Sources:**  
2000 Census

## **UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**

September 2002



*\*Estimates for Paso Robles and San Miguel are based on the 2000 Census. Rates for CA, U.S. and SLO County are not seasonally adjusted.*

The unemployment rate in San Luis Obispo County is 2.2% lower than the U.S. unemployment rate and 2.9% less than that of California. Paso Robles has a slightly higher rate than the county but is still under the state rate. Unemployment in San Miguel is slightly higher than Paso Robles and the County rate, but appears to have decreased significantly from years past.

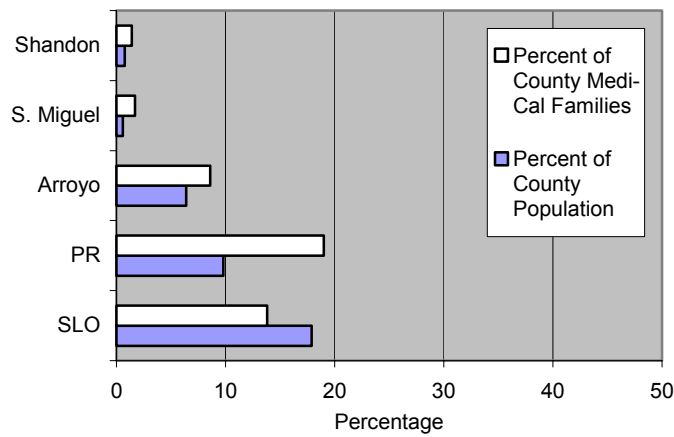
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**Sources:**

2000 Census

[www.calmis.cahwnet.gov](http://www.calmis.cahwnet.gov)

**Percent of County Population Compared to Percent of County Medi-Cal Families**



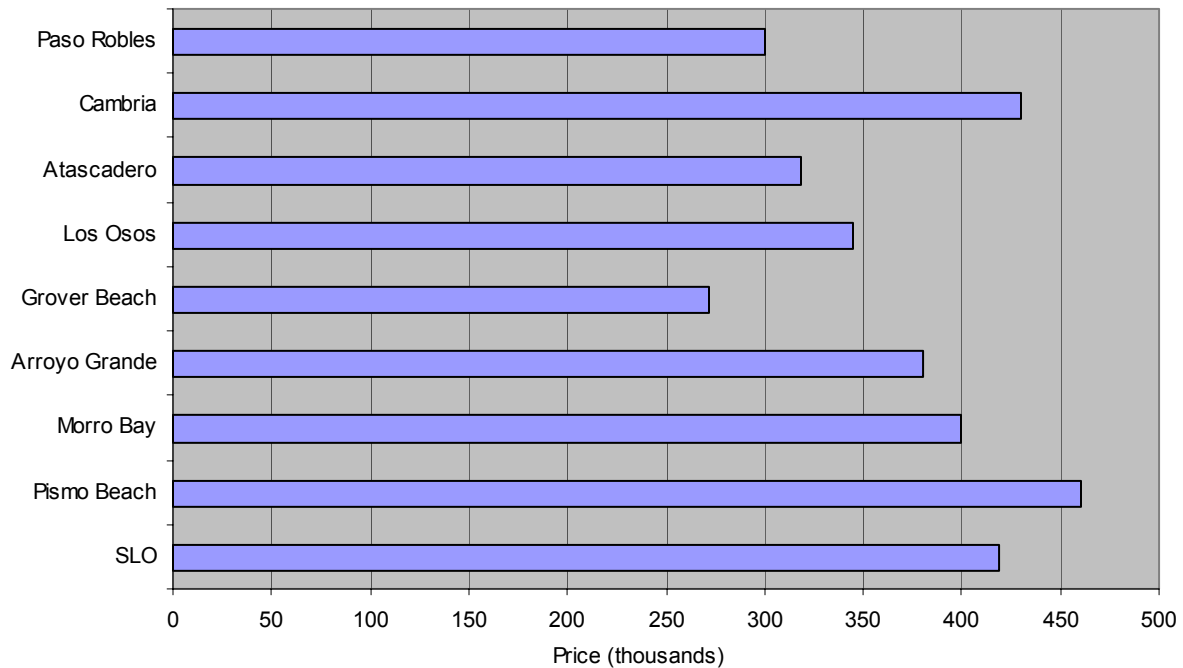
The city of Paso Robles makes up approximately 9.8% of the county's population, but it contains 19% of the county's Medi-Cal families. Paso Robles contains the greatest percentage of the county's Medi-Cal families.

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**Sources:**

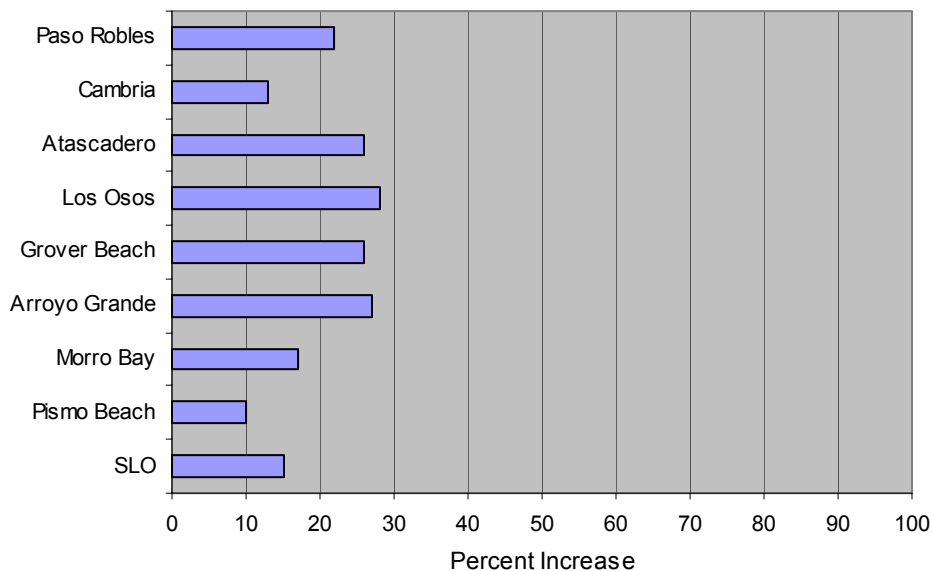
Action for Healthy Communities, 2001 Comprehensive Report

## Median Home Selling Prices in 2003



The price of housing in Paso Robles was the second lowest in the county with a median home selling price of \$300,000. The lowest housing prices were in Grover Beach, which had a median home selling price of \$272,000.

## Percent Increase in Median Home Selling Price from March 2002 to 2003



From March 2002 to March 2003, the median price of housing in Paso Robles increased by 22%.

***HOUSING OPTIONS FOR LOW-MODERATE INCOME PERSONS  
IN PASO ROBLES:***

<b>Current Housing Options</b>	<b># of Units</b>	<b>Clientele</b>
<b>Creston Garden Apts.</b>	60	Families
<b>Oak Park Apartments</b>	148	Families
<b>Paso Robles Garden Apts.</b>	26	Families
<b>Riverview Apts.</b>	48	Families
<b>Hacienda del Norte</b>	44	Elderly and Disabled
<b>Los Robles Terrace</b>	40	Elderly and Disabled
<b>Housing in Progress</b>		
<b>Canyon Creek Apts</b>	68	Families
<b>Creekside Gardens Apts</b>	29	Elderly
<b>Oak Park Senior Housing</b>	40	Elderly